

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00544 201229Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00
OES-07 DLOS-09 /112 W
-----201233Z 101341 /45

R 200930Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6721
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0544

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR PGOV ECON EFIN ELAB UR MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW- MAY 20 SUMMARY

REF: PORT LOUIS 518

1. MMM DEPUTY MOORBA'S RESIGNATION FROM HIS PARTY AND THREATS BY OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT JOLTED THE MMM LEADERSHIP INTO PROMISING TO TAKE STEPS TO REDISTRIBUTE PARTY RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESTORE PARTY UNITY. BY MID-WEEK, HOWEVER, ANOTHER MMM MILITANT LABOR LEADER RESIGNED FROM HIS PARTY AND UNION POSITIONS IN PROTEST OVER THE "DICTATORSHIP, COMMUNALISM, AND HYPOCRISY" HE FOUND INSIDE THE MMM.

2. THE LABOR PARTY'S REGIONAL CONGRESS, HELD TO CANVASS PULRIC
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OPINION, WAS NOTEWORTHY FOR THE NUMEROUS SPEECHES BY PARTY LEADERS. EDUCATION MINISTER JAGATSINGH OPENLY CRITICIZED THOSE WHO HAD CAUSED THE PARTY TO PERFORM BADLY IN THE DECEMBER ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCENTRATION ON "CASTE AND COMMUNALIST ISSUES."

3. FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET

IN THE ASSEMBLY, DENYING IT WAS AN "AUSTERITY" BUDGET, BUT ONE OF "SELF-RESTRAINT." BESIDES CONTINUING ITS ATTACK IN THE ASSEMBLY ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET, THE MMM STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MAURITIUS BROADCASTING CORPORATION'S TV-RADIO PROGRAMMING, AND DEMANDED AS WELL THAT BRITISH EXPERTS SERVING IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECURITY ADVISOR BE REMOVED.

4. TWO REFERENDUMS WERE CALLED FOR DURING THE WEEK: MINISTER OF HOUSING FRANCOIS ASKED FOR ONE BY WORKERS TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANT TO ABOLISH THE OBLIGATORY DUES PAYMENTS TO LABOR UNIONS; THE PRIME MINISTER PROMISED A REFERENDUM THIS YEAR ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER MAURITIUS SHOULD BECOME A REPUBLIC.

5. ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, AGRICULTURE MINISTER BOOLELL WAS SATISFIED WITH THE PRICE FOR SUGAR OBTAINED FROM THE EEC FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS IN EUROPE. MAURITIUS WILL RECEIVE ABOUT A 4 PERCENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S PRICE FOR THE 500,000 TONS IT EXPORTS TO THE EEC. THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ROSE AGAIN DURING MARCH BY .8 PERCENT.

6. IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AN OFFICIALLY INSPIRED NEWS ARTICLE IN THIS WEEK'S L'EXPRESS SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM WOULD NOT RENEW THE SIX YEAR OLD FISHING AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR. REASONS GIVEN: (A) THE SOVIETS HAD NOT LIVED UP TO THEIR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST THE MAURITIAN FISHING INDUSTRY; AND (B) SOVIET SHIPS VISITING MAURITIUS DURING THE PAST YEAR IN PARTICULAR HAD DRAWN MORE LOCAL CURRENCY THAN NEEDED, AND HAD USED THE MONEY FOR PURPOSES "CONTRARY TO THE NATIONAL INTERESTS" OF

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MAURITIUS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2435608
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW- MAY 20 SUMMARY
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, ECON, EFIN, ELAB, UR, MP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6c1a408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009